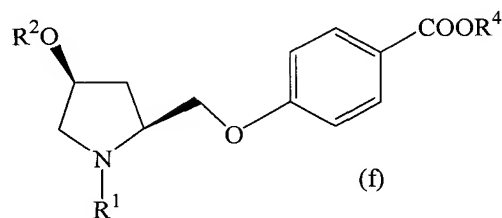


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

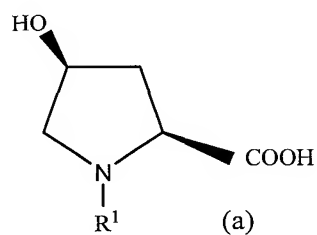
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (f):

[F6]



(wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a protecting group for the amino group, R<sup>2</sup> represents a lower alkyl group, and R<sup>4</sup> represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted), ~~characterized by~~ comprising reacting an alkyl halide with a compound represented by formula (a):

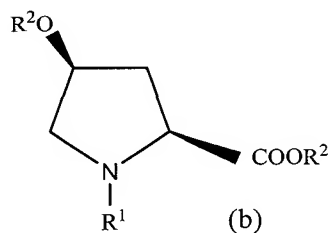
[F1]



(wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the same meaning as defined above)

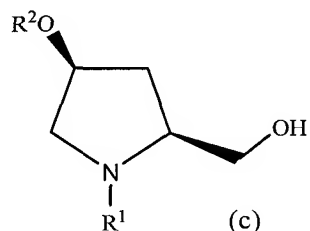
in the presence of a base to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (b):

[F2]



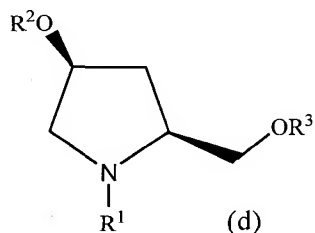
(wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the same meanings as defined above); reacting a reducing agent with the compound represented by formula (b) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (c):

[F3]



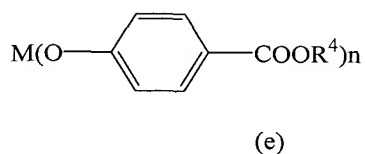
(wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the same meanings as defined above); reacting the compound represented by formula (c) with an arylsulfonyl halide which may be substituted or an alkylsulfonyl halide which may be substituted in the presence of a base to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (d):

[F4]



(wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the same meanings as defined above, and  $R^3$  represents an arylsulfonyl group which may be substituted or an alkylsulfonyl group which may be substituted); and reacting the compound represented by formula (d) with a compound represented by formula (e):

[F5]



(wherein  $R^4$  has the same meaning as defined above, M represents an alkali metal atom or an alkaline earth metal atom, and n denotes an integer of 1 or 2).

Claim 2 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  represents a benzyloxycarbonyl group.

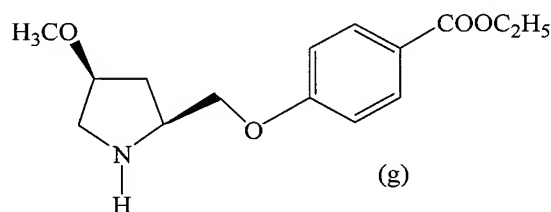
Claim 3 (Original): A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein  $R^2$  represents a methyl group or an ethyl group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein  $R^3$  represents a para-toluenesulfonyl group or a methanesulfonyl group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the arylsulfonyl halide or the alkylsulfonyl halide is an arylsulfonyl chloride or an alkylsulfonyl chloride.

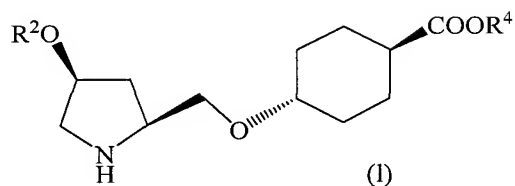
Claim 6 (Withdrawn): An oxalic acid salt of the compound represented by formula (g).

[F7]



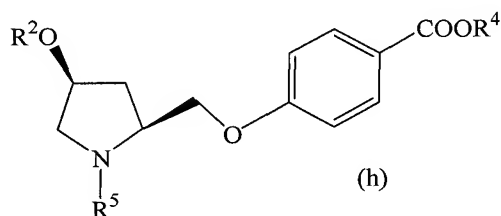
Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (l):

[F12]



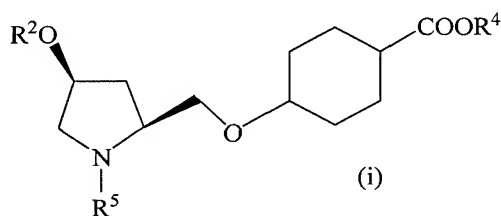
(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted), characterized by comprising reducing a compound represented by formula (h):

[F8]



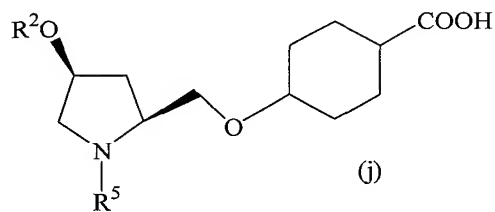
(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above, and  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for the amino group) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (i):

[F9]



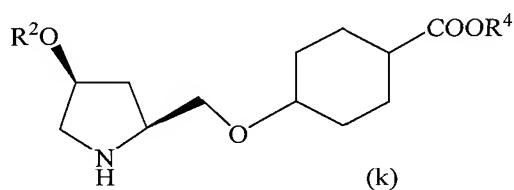
(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); treating the compound represented by formula (i) with a base in an aprotic polar solvent and then reacting with water to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (j):

[F10]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); and treating the compound represented by formula (j) with an acid in the presence of an alcohol to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (k):

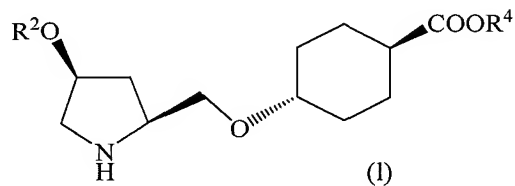
[F11]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above); and treating the compound represented by formula (k) with camphorsulfonic acid to thereby form an acid adduct salt so that an isomer of interest can be isolated.

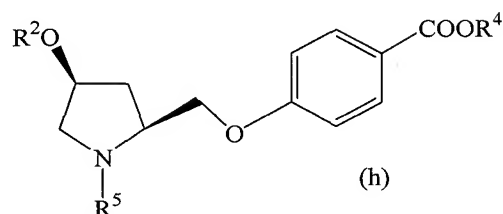
Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (l):

[F16]



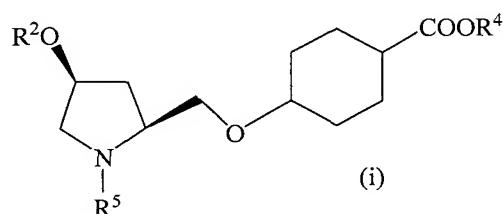
(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted), characterized by comprising reducing a compound represented by formula (h):

[F13]



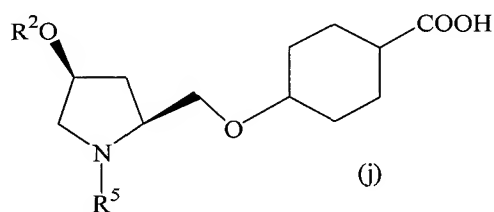
(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above, and  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for the amino group) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (i):

[F14]



(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); treating the compound represented by formula (i) with a base in an aprotic polar solvent and then reacting with water to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (j):

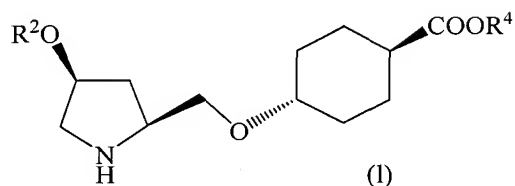
[F15]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); and treating the compound represented by formula (j) with camphorsulfonic acid to thereby form an acid adduct salt so that an isomer of interest can be isolated.

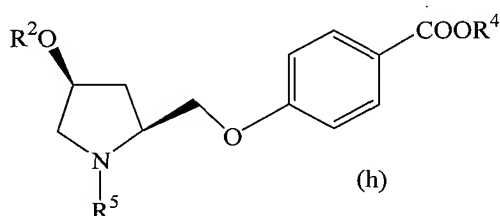
Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (l):

[F21]



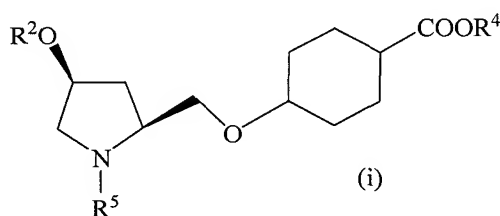
(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted), characterized by comprising reducing a compound represented by formula (h):

[F17]



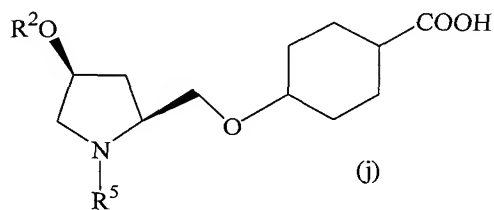
(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above, and  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for the amino group) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (i):

[F18]



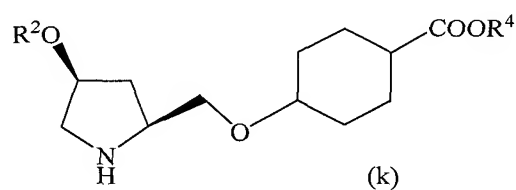
(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); treating the compound represented by formula (i) with a base in an aprotic polar solvent and then reacting with water to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (j):

[F19]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); isolating the compound represented by formula (j) as a salt and then treating the salt with an acid in the presence of an alcohol to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (k):

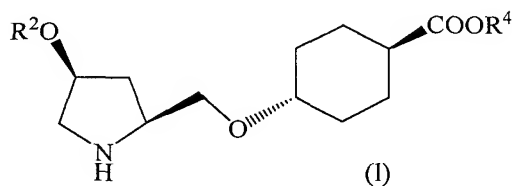
[F20]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above); and treating the compound represented by formula (k) with camphorsulfonic acid to thereby form an acid adduct salt so that an isomer of interest can be isolated.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (l):

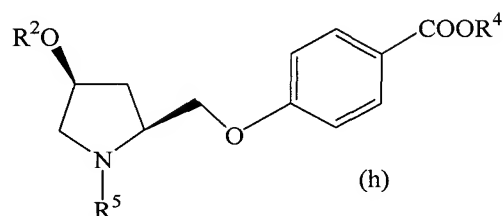
[F25]



(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted), characterized by comprising reducing a compound represented by formula (h):

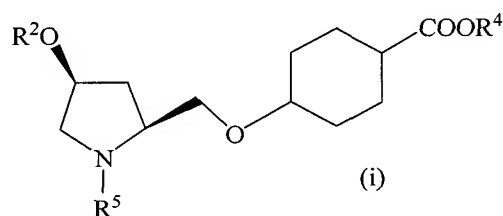
[F22]





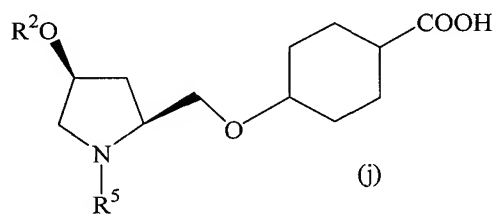
(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above, and  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for the amino group) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (i):

[F23]



(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); treating the compound represented by formula (i) with a base in an aprotic polar solvent and then reacting with water to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (j):

[F24]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^5$  have the same meanings as defined above); isolating the compound represented by formula (j) as a salt and then treating the compound with camphorsulfonic acid to thereby produce an acid adduct salt so that an isomer of interest can be isolated.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the compound represented by formula (h) is a compound produced through a method according to claim 1, a compound produced through removal of the protecting group for the amino group of a compound produced through a method according to claim 1, or a compound produced through removal of the protecting group for the amino group of a compound produced through a method according to claim 1 and then protection of the amino group with a protecting group which differs from the removed protecting group.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein R<sup>5</sup> represents a tert-butoxycarbonyl group.

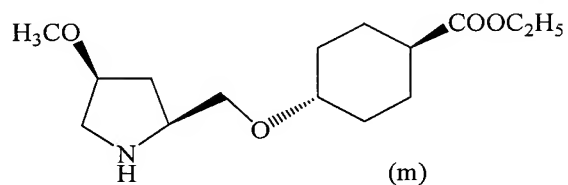
Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a methyl group or an ethyl group.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 7 to 13, wherein the base is sodium hydride, lithium hydride, or potassium t-butoxide.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 7 to 14, wherein the aprotic polar solvent is N,N-dimethylformamide or N,N-dimethylacetamide.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A camphorsulfonic acid salt of the compound represented by formula (m).

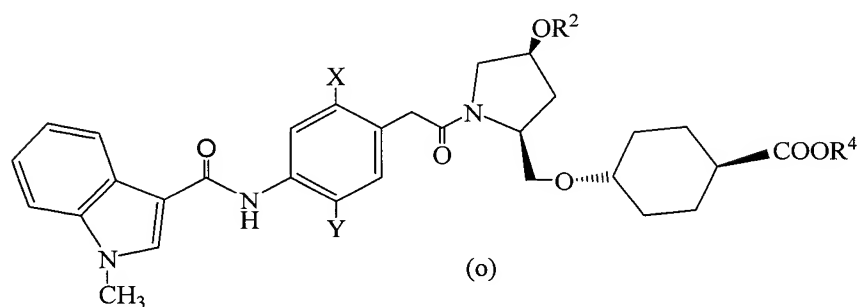
[F26]



Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula

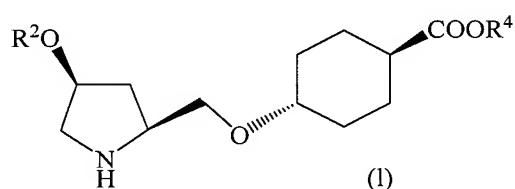
(o):

[F29]



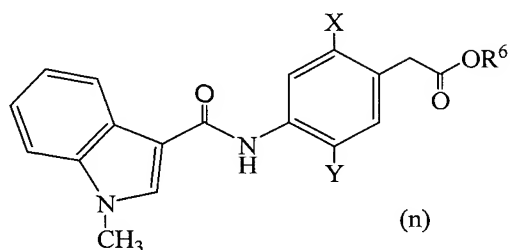
(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group,  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted, X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and Y represents a halogen atom or a lower alkoxy group), characterized by comprising reacting a compound represented by formula (l):

[F27]



(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above) produced through a method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, with a compound represented by formula (n):

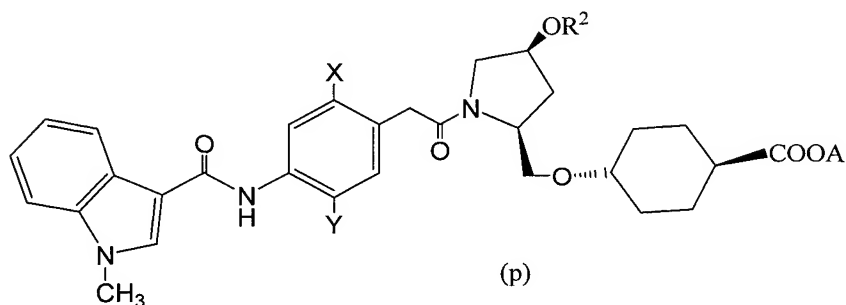
[F28]



(wherein R<sup>6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched lower alkyl group which may be substituted, or an aralkyl group which may be substituted, and X and Y have the same meanings as defined above).

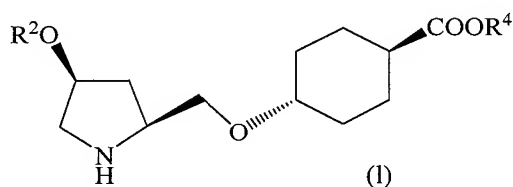
Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (p):

[F33]



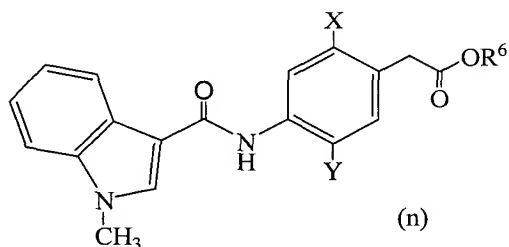
(wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents a lower alkyl group, A represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or an organic amine, X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and Y represents a halogen atom or a lower alkoxy group) or a hydrate thereof, characterized by comprising reacting a compound represented by formula (l):

[F30]



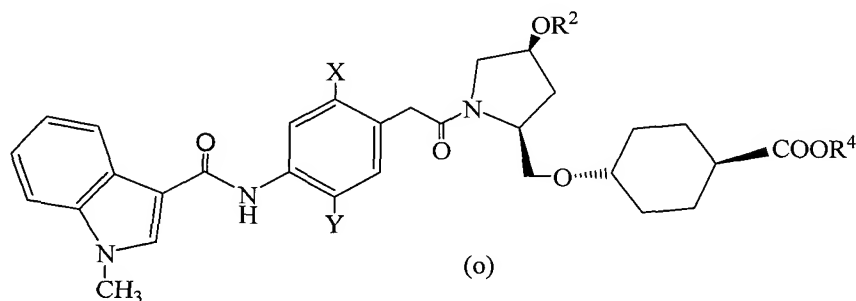
(wherein  $R^2$  has the same meaning as defined above, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted) produced through a method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, with a compound represented by formula (n):

[F31]



(wherein  $R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched lower alkyl group which may be substituted, or an aralkyl group which may be substituted, and X and Y have the same meanings as defined above) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (o):

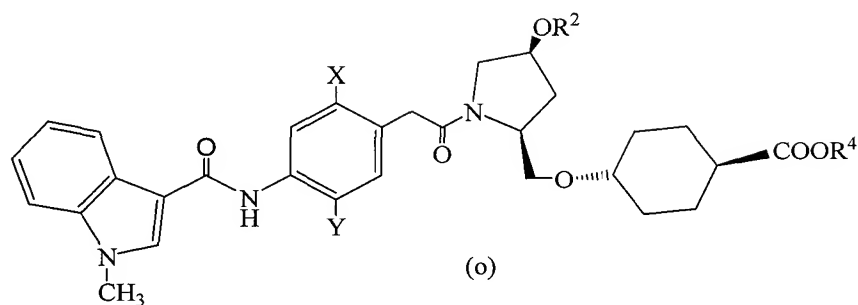
[F32]



(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , X, and Y have the same meanings as defined above); and  
hydrolyzing the compound represented by formula (o).

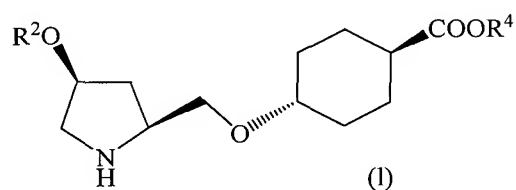
Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (o):

[F38]



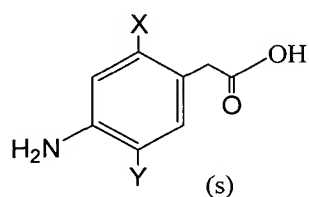
(wherein  $R^2$  represents a lower alkyl group,  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted, X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and Y represents a halogen atom or a lower alkoxy group), characterized by comprising reacting a compound represented by formula (l):

[F34]



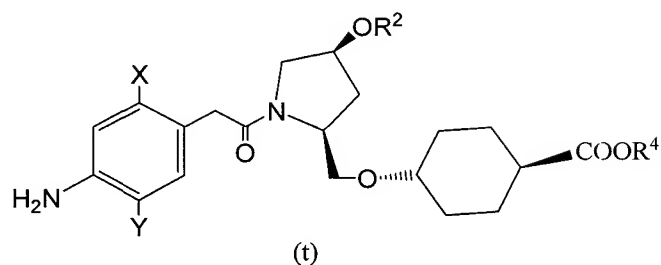
(wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  have the same meanings as defined above) produced through a method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, with a compound represented by formula (s):

[F35]



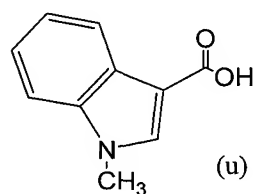
(wherein X and Y have the same meanings as defined above) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (t):

[F36]



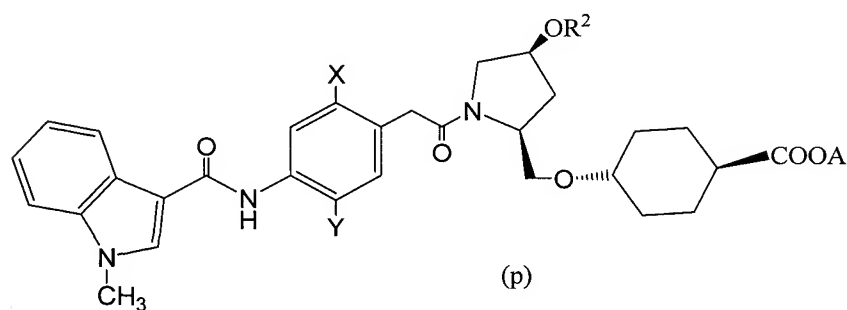
(wherein  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{X}$ , and  $\text{Y}$  have the same meanings as defined above); and reacting the compound represented by formula (t) with a compound represented by formula (u).

[F37]



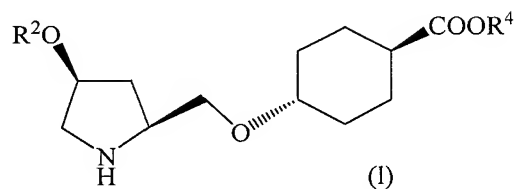
Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a compound represented by formula (p):

[F44]



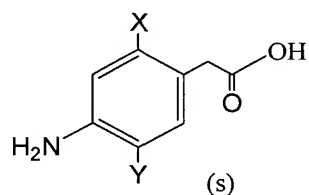
(wherein  $\text{R}^2$  represents a lower alkyl group,  $\text{A}$  represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or an organic amine,  $\text{X}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and  $\text{Y}$  represents a halogen atom or a lower alkoxy group) or a hydrate thereof, characterized by comprising reacting a compound represented by formula (l):

[F39]



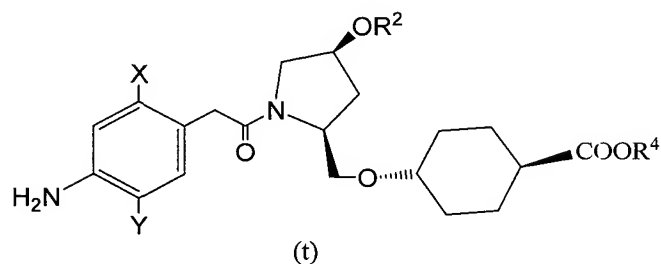
(wherein R<sup>2</sup> has the same meaning as defined above, and R<sup>4</sup> represents an alkyl group which may be substituted or an aralkyl group which may be substituted) produced through a method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, with a compound represented by formula (s):

[F40]



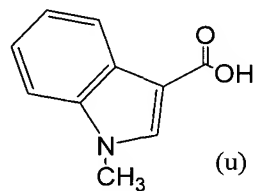
(wherein X and Y have the same meanings as defined above) to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (t):

[F41]



(wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , X, and Y have the same meanings as defined above); reacting the compound represented by formula (t) with a compound represented by formula (u):

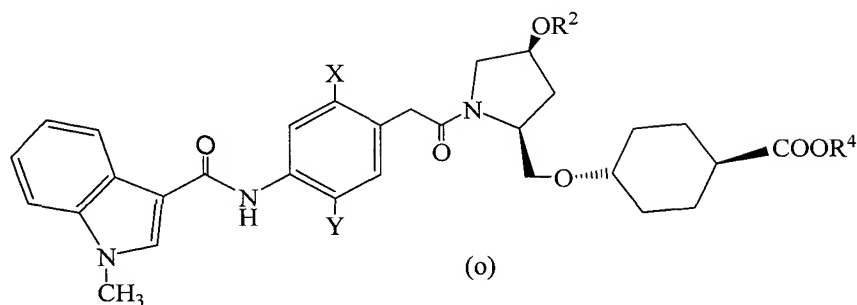
[F42]



to thereby produce a compound represented by formula (o):



[F43]



(wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, X, and Y have the same meanings as defined above); and  
hydrolyzing the compound represented by formula (o).

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents a methyl group or an ethyl group.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 17 to 21, wherein X represents a chlorine atom or a fluorine atom.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claims 17 to 22, wherein each of X and Y represents a chlorine atom.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A method according to any one of claim 18 and claims 20 to 23, wherein A represents sodium.